Should you nak why all this dupning? From the printer, from the mailer. From the kind old paper-maker, From the bandlord, from the devil, From the man who takes letters With the stmmp of Uncle Samuel-Uncle Samithe rowdies call him-From frem all there comes a message, Message kind but firmly spoken: "Please to pay the bill you owe me."

Sad It is to hear the measage. When our funds are all exhausted, When the last greenback has left us, when the nickels all have vanished; Gone to pay the tolling printer, Gone to pay the baper-maker, Cone to pay the landlord's tribute Gone to pay the clerk and devil. Gone to pay Unche Samuel-Uncle Sam the rowdies call him-Gone to pay for beef and Bridget, Gone to pay the faithful parson.

Sad it is to turn our ledger, Turn the leaves of this old ledger, Turn and see what sums are due ug, Due for volumes long since ended, thue for years of pleasing resulting, Ime for years of auxious labor. Due despite of constant dunning.

mid you lift a bugden from us? mid you drive it spectic from you? Would you taste a pleasant slumber: Would you have a quiet conscience! Would you read a paper paid for? Send us money! Send us money! Send us money! Send us money! send us money that you owe us.

### How Two Learn A Lesson.

Betty sighed, 'Now why she should

mouth clapping together in what those en criedwho knew him but little called an "obstinate pucker," "Now what is

sigh into a merry little laugh rippling of her trouble. sent out the words .-

I'm always troublesome!"

abominable!"

pleasant to behold

said to me, you miss your guess-that's times the "old maid" should walk! all!" cried Betty, with two big red But she never had-and now, scentspots coming in her cheeks as she ing dimly, like a carrion after its prey, tried to draw her little erect figure up that trouble might come to the pretty to its utmost dimensions. "Forever little white house, the moke-mischief insinuating! I guess you wouldn't had come to do her work, if devashave said that before I married you. tation had really commenced. Oh, now you can, of course!"

cried Betty, wholly beyond control know 'tain't your fault." how, "why, then I'll give up," and she Betty's heart stood still. Had it gave a bitter little laugh and tossed come to this? John and she not to live newspaper myself-

quarrel! These two, who, but a year scene of words and hot tempers; but before, had promised to love and pro- had it gotten around so often-a story lect and help each other through life! in everybody's mouth? With all her

skipped out of her little shoes only she on.

around the mouth so drawn that it sure!" would have gone to any one's heart to "You tell folks so?" repeated Betty, have seen their expression.

"I don't know how you will change "What? I don't understand you." it, or help it," said Betty, lightly, to cesture

That hair that John always man he is, how cross, and-" smoothed when he petted her when "And you dare to tell people such a little girl who sat near a fresh looktired or disheartened, and called her things of my husband?" cried Betty, ing grave, looked up as some one ap-"child." Her gesture struck to his drawing herself up to her extremest proached and said: heart as he glanced at her sunny locks height, and towering so over the old and the cool, indifferent face under- woman in the chair that she jumped in peath, and before he knew it was say- confusion at the storm she had raised,

in the cool; calm way that ought not could not stop. But she was forced so little of women's hearts, although the chair, and blocked up the way, so closest friendship. "You needn't try ner of it and took it as best she could. "What do you mean?"

Instead of bringing out a violent been cross, impatient, and-"

around. You know best;" and was straight and setting her spectacles gone from the room before she could more firmly. recover from her astonishment enough | "And now that you've learned all that to utter a sound.

the room, first tossing the ten dollar may go!" during her married life.

"How could be have done it-oh, Betty remembered like a flash how might have married richer. I longed John and she filled the seed-cup that to put ten times ten into your hand, very morning, how he laughed when Betty, and it galled me because I she tried to put it in between the bars, couldn't." his great arms, and held her up, just she presently turned, still smilling, Jonesboro, - - - Tennessee.

down to the depths of her foolish little "I didn't mean," she said, unpinheart, sending her about her work ing the bundle, "to let it out, now, Tenn singing for very gladness of spirit, but I shall have to. Why, John, day And now!

her rosy ears to shut out the bird's has it come round so soon?"

days-nothing will make any differ- bluest shade, that presently assumed

was all the more exasperating because down on the old sofa, she never knew. must be dreadfully surprised, John John had just generously put into her Over and over the dreadful scene she when you get it, for oh. I didn't want little shapely hand a brand new ten went, realizing its worst features each you to know!" dollar bill. And here began the trou- time in despair, until heavy footsteps John made the answer he thought "What's the matter?" he said, his point of breaking in upon her uninvit- perplexedly, while a small pucker of Fare the best the market affords. face falling at the faint sound, and his ed, and a voice out in the little kitch- bewilderment settled between his

sobs, and tried with all her might to ing-gown, "had to do with the sigh?" Betty who just begun to change the compose herself and remove all traces "That," said Betty, and then she

ever insinuating and all that, and then had managed to ply her other voca- till to-day." for you to put it on me-its really tions, that of newsgatherer, at one and the same time, pretty effectually.

The voice was harsh, and the eyes She always called her by her first they have ever quarreled since-at that looked flown into hers were not name, though Betty resented it; and least I have never heard of it. she made a great handle of her friend-"And if you think, John Peabody, ship on every occasion, making John that I'll stand and have such things, rage violently and vow a thousand

"Been crying!" she said, more plain-"Didn't you say it first, I'd like to ly than politely, and sinking down inknow?" cried John in great excite- to the pretty chintz-covered rocking ment, drawing nearer to the small chair with an energy that showed she creature he called wife, who was gaz- meant to stay, and make the chair ing at him with blazing eyes of indig- creak fearfully. "Only folks do say nation; "I can't endure everything!" that you and your husband don't live "And if you bear more than I do," happy-but la! I wouldn't mind-I

happy! To be sure they didn't, as she · Here they were in the midst of a remembered with a pang the dreadful "Now," said John, and he brought distress of mind she was saved from his hand down with such a bang on opening her mouth. So Miss Sim- cial, "we appreciate your servicesthe table before him that Betty nearly mons, failing in that, was forced to go

controlled the start, for she would "An' I tell folks so," she said, rockhave died before she had let John see ing herself back and forth to witness but has it ever occurred to you that we it, "we'll have no more of this non- the effect of her words, "when they git would like to have some of the monto talkin', so you can't blame me if ey that your train carns? As long as His face was very pale, and the lines things don't go easy for you, I'm you only took half we said nothing,

vaguely, and standing quite still.

conceal her dismay at the turn affairs strange mood and her duliness. "I are too hard, captain. Good bye." had taken, "I'm sure?" and she pushed say says I, why they couldn't no one back the light, waving hair from her live with him, let alone that pretty forchead with a saucy, indifferent wife he's got. That's what I say, Betty. And then, I tell 'em what a queer

and stared blindly into the blazing eye There is no help for it now, I sup- and face rosy with indignation-her only thought was how to get away "Oh, yes, there is," said Betty, still from the storm she had raised, but to have deceived him. But men knew to stay, for Betty stood just in front of they may live with them for years in she slunk back into the smallest cor-

to endure it, John Peabody, if you "My husband!" eried Betty, dwelling don't want to. I'm sure I don't care!" with pride on the pronoun-at least, if they were to part, she would say it Her husband grasped her arms and over lovingly as much as she could till compelled the merry brown eyes to the last moment; and then, when the timedid come why people should know "I can go back to mother's" said that it wasn't John's fault-"the best, Betty provokingly. "She wants me the kindest, the noblest husband that any day, and then you can live quiet- ever was given to a woman. I've made ly and five tosust yourself, and it will be him more trouble than you can guess; it's too sad to talk about-it's criminal my hot temper has vexed him-I've neglect."

re will be square in lorm, handsomely | one singley, unerg

protestation of fond affections and re- "Hold!" cried a voice, "you're talkmorse which she fully expected, John ing against my wife!" and in a modrew himself up, looked at her fixedly ment big John Peabody rushed for a long, long minute, then dropped through the door, grasped the little woher arm, and said through white lips man in his arms, and folded her to his heart, right before the old maid.

"Yes, it may be as you say, better all "Oh!" said Miss Simmons, sitting up

you cen," said John, turning round With a wild cry Betty rushed across to lier, still holding Betty, "why-you CITYPROPERTY

bill savagely as far as she could throw "The chair was vacant. A dissolvit, and, flinging herself on the com- ing view through the door was all that fortable old sofa, broke into a flood of was to be seen of the gossip, who bitter tears-the first she had shed started up the road hurriedly, leaving peace behind.

"Betty," said John, some half hour what have I said? Oh, John, John!" afterward, "what was the sigh for! I The bird twittered in his little cage don't care now, but I did think, dear, over in the window among the plants. and it cut me to the heart, how you

and when she couldn't reach without Betty smiled and twisted away from getting upon a chair, he took her in his grasp. Running into the bed-room like a child, that she might fix it to with a bundle rolled up in a clean towsuit herself. And the "bits" that he el. This she put on her husband's said in his tender way, they had gone knee, who stared at her wonderingly.

after to-morrow is your birthday!" Betty stuffed her fingers hard into "So, 'tis!" said John, "Gracious!

"And, you dear boy," said Betty, "If he knew why I sighed," she shaking out before his eyes a pretty moaned. "Oh, my husband! Birth- brown affair, all edged with silk of the have sighted at this particular moment ence now. Oh, why can't I die?" the proportions of a dressing-gown, no one on earth could tell. And it How long she stayed there, crouched "this is to be your present. But you

proclaimed that some one was on the best. When he spoke again, he said,

"But I don't see, Betty, what this Betty sprang up, choked back her thing," laying one finger on the dress- BRISTOL, - - TENN

broke into a merry laugh that got so all over the corners of the red lips, The visitor was the worst possible mixed up with the dimples and the stopped suddenly, tossed her head and, one she could have under the circum- dancing brown eyes that for a moment with a small jerk no way conciliating, stances. Crowding herself on terms she could not finish. "Oh, John, I of the closest intimacy with the pretty was worrying so over those buttons! "You needn't insinuate John, that bride, who with her husband had They weren't good, but they were the and repaired on short notice. Satismoved into the village a twelvemonth best I could do then. And I'd only "I didn't insinuate-who's talking previous, Miss Elvira Simmous had bought them yesterday. Two whole of insinuating?" cried he, thoroughly made the very most of her opportuni- dozen. And when you put that ten incensed at the very idea, and backing ties, and by dint of making great pa-dollar bill in my hand I didn't hardly away a few steps, he glared down from rade over helping her in some domes- know it, but I suppose I did give one his tremendous height in extreme irritic work, such as house-keeping, dress- little bit of a sigh, for I was so provoktation. "It's you yourself that's for- making and the like, the maiden lady ed that I hadn't waited buying them

> John caught up the little woman, dressing-gown and all. I don't think

## Extenuating Circumstances.

'Have you anything to say in mitigation of your crime?"

'Can't say as I have.' 'Have you any thing to say before sentonce is passed, why the full penalty of the law should not be exacted?"

'Well, no; I reckon not.' 'You have nothing then, to offer in extennation of your misconduct? 'Hold on a minute, Judge; I believe

there is one little thing; but I don't know as it will count for much, either.' 'Well what is it?' 'I never writ any spring poetry.' It is enough. The penalty shall be

as light as the law allows. Ten days; and you shall have turkey every meal at my expense, for I used to run a

### Important Railroad Item. A well known conductor was sup-

moned to appear before the superintendent. "Captain," said the high offi-"Thank you, sir."

"Not at all, not at all, I can assure you. Yes, we appreciate your services, SWEET TONED EMERSON PIANO and even when you began to take twothirds there was only a slight differ-the lowest. Terms to snit all. ence of opinion in the board of directors, but now that you have begun to "Why, that the blame is all his'n," take all, we cannot stand it. Times

## Not a Soldier.

While the grave of ex-confederates were being decorated in Little Rock,

"Mister won't you please please give me some flowers to put on this grave?" "Is it a soldier's grave?"

"No, sir." "Who is buried here?" "My mother." A moment later the little hands was

filled with flowers.

## An Awful Mistake.

A man whose store house had burned down stood sorrowfully looking at the smoking ruins.

"A sad loss," the friend replied. "It shows the results of a bad mem-

"Why, if I hadn't forgotton that the insurance had expired I would not have left a candle burning in-oh, well

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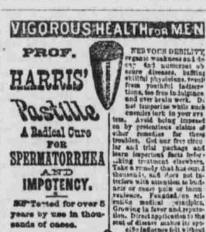


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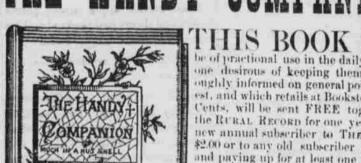
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